

mapped region are great, but they were made even greater by the fact that the region mentioned is the very boundary line between the Russian and the Chinese Empires and that at that time the Kulja, or Ili, district was a subject of international dispute between the two countries.

In the journey through the alkali desert Mr. Meyer secured some promising desert poplars and cuttings of that important drought and alkali resistant tree, the tamarisk (Nos. 30930 to 30933), to which enough attention has not yet been paid by dwellers in desert regions who are looking for cover plants and sand binders. Crossing the Tien Shan Range he reached altitudes of 13,000 feet and traveled through forests of the rare spruce *Picea obovata schrenkiana*, a form which may have a distinct future as a park and avenue tree in the elevated semiarid regions of this country where the Norway spruce fails. On March 16 and 17 Mr. Meyer discovered wild apricot and wild apple trees (Nos. 30946 to 30949 and 30952) standing in 2 feet of hard-frozen snow on the north side of an otherwise barren mountain near Tugai. In the valley of the Chong Djighilan River groves of these wild fruits occur, the slow-growing trees varying in all possible ways. They grow in the company of birches, sea buckthorn, hawthorn, and other northern species, and Mr. Meyer is forced to the conclusion from his study of the wild orchards which he saw there that these wild species will give rise to strains of very much hardier varieties of both these orchard fruits than any we now possess. Our apples and apricots have no doubt come to us from their wild homes through the mild regions of Europe, and this reaching back to the original wild hardy forms can not fail to be of importance to the breeders who are interested in the production of hardier varieties. Owing to the fact that it took two months for the cuttings to reach Washington (though gathered in March they did not reach here until May 17), it proved impossible to save them. Arrangements for their reintroduction are under way.

Some of the other plants which were secured on this trip are an ornamental *Euonymus* (No. 31276) from the Ili Valley, which is likely to be hardier than *E. radicans*, so much used on the walls of our houses; a valuable collection of the named varieties of winter melons of the Casaba type (Nos. 31335 to 31352) from the sand dunes of Tcharjui; two yellow-flowered alfalfas from an altitude of 4,000 to 7,000 feet (Nos. 30954 and 30955); two wild currants from Idin-Kul (Nos. 30943 and 30944); a collection of hardy willows for park planting in the Northwest (Nos. 30923 to 30929); and a collection of five varieties of apricots, one of them a dark-red sort, from Bis-Karim (Nos. 30628 to 30632).

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